

Before the House Committee on Health Care  
Support of HB 4013 – Electronically Transmitted Prescriptions

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Kaiser Permanente supports HB 4013, allowing for the electronic transmission of prescriptions (“e-prescribing”) for Schedule II controlled substances.

Since June 1, 2010, rules promulgated by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have allowed for e-prescribing of Schedule II through V controlled substances. Oregon statute allows e-prescribing of Schedule III through V controlled substances, but only allows e-prescribing of Schedule II drugs in an emergency

Until last year, Washington was in a similar situation; statute only allowed e-prescribing of schedule III through V controlled substances. The Washington Legislature passed Senate Bill 5416 in 2013, bringing Washington law into alignment with the new DEA rules and allowing e-prescribing of Schedule II controlled substances.

HB 4013 will follow suit and bring Oregon law into alignment with both federal law and Washington. A foundational element of Kaiser Permanente’s integrated delivery system—which spans across both Oregon and Southwest Washington—is linking providers through a single, electronic medical record system. Our physicians and pharmacists are connected by the medical record and nearly all prescriptions are transmitted electronically. While we store prescription information in the record on Schedule II prescriptions, under current Oregon law, we have to go an extra step of issuing a written prescription for those drugs.

HB 4013 will align e-prescribing requirements across our delivery system. Electronic prescribing improves efficiency and patient experience, but more importantly it improves safety. Using electronic prescriptions ensures that providers and pharmacists have real-time information on a patient. This allows for easier tracking of adverse drug reactions and potential abuse or drug seeking behavior.

We urge the committee to support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.